

Fish and Wildlife Management

Fish and Wildlife Management		2004 Actual	2005 Enacted	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	2006 Budget Request	Change from 2005 (+/-)
Anadromous Fish Management	\$(000) FTE	10,291 98	10,215 97	+208	+41	10,465 97	+249 0
Fish and Wildlife Assistance	\$(000) FTE	41,468 236	43,631* 237	+494	-7,073	36,735 237	-6,896 0
Marine Mammals	\$(000) FTE	4,569 20	4,572 21	+50	-2,137	2,485 21	-2,087 0
Total, Fish and Wildlife Management	\$(000) FTE	56,328 354	58,418 355	+752	-9,169	49,685 355	-8,733 0

* This reflects a technical adjustment to reconcile to the Department of the Interior's support table.

Program Overview

Conservation through Cooperation, Communication, and Consultation

The Fish and Wildlife Management Program (FWM) uses a cooperative and collaborative approach with states, tribes, federal agencies, foreign governments, and private citizens to restore, manage, and conserve the health of nationally significant fish, marine mammals, wildlife, other aquatic animals, and the habitats upon which they depend. This program subactivity implements DOI's Resource Protection Goal of *sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters*.

Activities include conducting scientific assessment of habitats and populations; providing expertise and leadership in the development of resource plans; protecting native populations from the threats of aquatic nuisance species; restoring degraded habitats; and opening up fish passage by removing or bypassing artificial barriers. These activities are evaluated through program performance measures that roll up under each of the three DOI Intermediate Outcome Goals of *creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish, managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species, and improving information base, information management and technical assistance*.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Program also leads the Service's efforts to fulfill Tribal trust responsibilities by providing technical assistance and expertise, training Tribal members in the management of fish and wildlife resources, and consulting with tribes regarding fish and wildlife resources for which the Service is responsible. FWM activities for tribes effectively support the DOI Serving Communities Goal of *fulfilling Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities*.

During FY 2005, the Service will work with the Department and OMB to evaluate possible changes to its budget structure to more effectively track performance against the draft Fisheries Strategic Plan. Changes may involve consolidating two Fish and Wildlife Management subactivity program elements, Anadromous Fish Management (AFM) and Fish and Wildlife Assistance (FWA), into one program element, or more comprehensive changes to more closely reflect the focus areas of the Strategic Plan.

The Fisheries Program works with its partners to set local, regional, & national resource management goals, which are aligned under the 7 categories of the draft "National Fisheries Program Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2004-2008":

- Aquatic Species Conservation and Management
- Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management
- Cooperation with Native Americans
- Partnerships and Accountability
- Leadership in Science and Technology
- Public Use
- Workforce Management

Fisheries Strategic Vision – Establishing Program Priorities

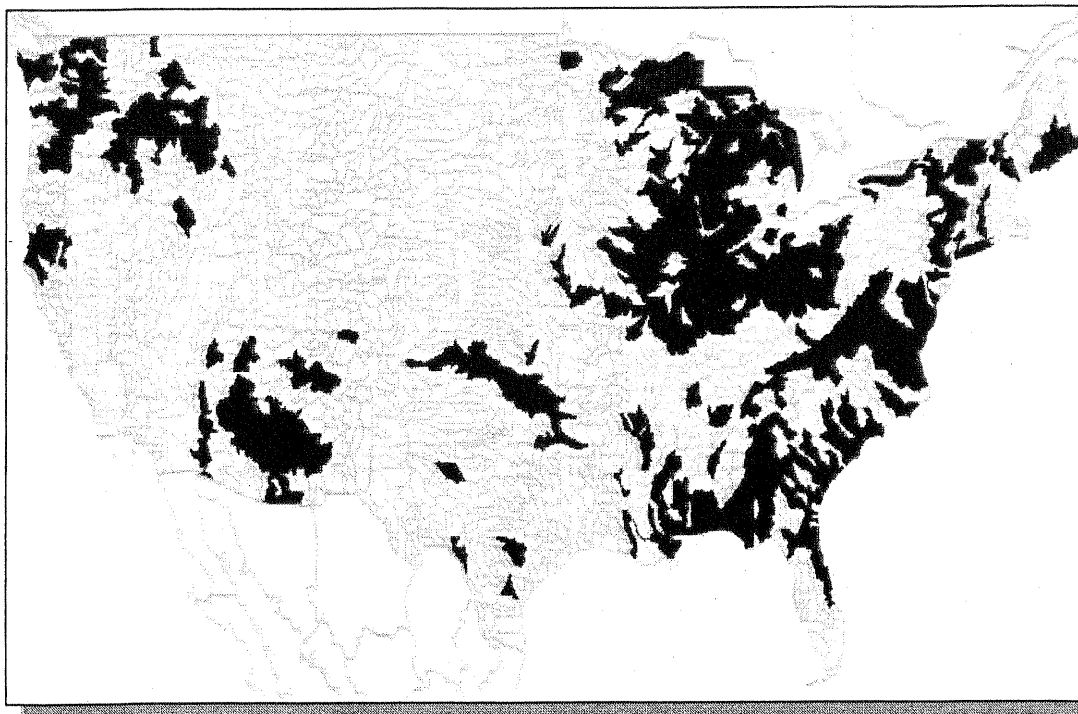
Conserving America's Fisheries: the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future, is a product of collaboration with a broad array of stakeholders that focuses the Fisheries Program on several priority areas. In FY 2003, the Fisheries Program began implementing the *Vision* through the preparation of Regional implementation plans, in consultation with states and other partners. These Regional plans identify performance measures, goals, and targets that support end outcome goals in the DOI Strategic Plan.

The draft *National Fisheries Program Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2004-2008* (Plan), incorporating the Vision, the Regional implementation plans, and the performance measures and goals, is nearing final approval. During 2004, the draft Plan was utilized in planning and prioritization at all Fisheries program levels. Annual goals and performance targets have been incorporated into regional and national level versions of the Plan.

FWM utilizes the Fisheries Information System (FIS), an internal reporting system that tracks accomplishments, status and trends of populations of federal trust species, and unfunded operational needs. FIS modules include the Populations Module, Accomplishment Module, and the Fisheries Operational Needs System (FONS). FIS is a database in which the Program records resource needs and accomplishments, and organizes them for Regional and national reporting. The FONS module tracks unmet resource needs and allows managers to better plan and prioritize projects. Upon completion of the fiscal year, all Fisheries Program offices enter accomplishments in the FIS Accomplishments Module, indicating performance targets met, outputs produced, and other essential information. The Populations Module is a national, science-based database that identifies areas where information is needed to manage for the conservation and restoration of wild, native freshwater and anadromous populations of federal trust species. This information can be analyzed to identify gaps in the dataset and to identify corresponding actions needed (monitoring and assessment, recovery planning, etc.) to effectively manage populations.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- Fish and Wildlife Management has completed its analysis in preparation for implementing the Service's Human Capital Investment Solutions to close competency gaps and deploy the workforce more effectively to achieve strategic goals to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of human resources. Products include standardized position descriptions and associated competencies; a position management template that defines career paths; training and development profiles that delineate competencies and proficiency levels required at each grade level; and staffing models, validated by workload indicators, that will be used to determine the number and types of positions needed.
- Identified performance measures that reflect the purpose of the program, and performance targets that are realistic, ambitious, and achievable. Annual goals and performance targets have been incorporated into regional and national level versions of the Fisheries Strategic Plan.
- The Service uses the Fisheries Information System (FIS) to help set priorities, document performance and improve accountability. The Populations Module, a national, science-based database that catalogues populations of federal management concern, is used to identify gaps and to identify corresponding actions needed (monitoring and assessment, recovery planning, etc.) to effectively manage populations. In FY 2005, FIS will become web-based for real time performance tracking, enhancing accountability reporting, and improving overall functionality of the system.
- Through the Fish Passage Program, FWM accomplishes significant on-the-ground habitat restoration, and uses annual performance data to direct additional fiscal resources to those Regions that consistently achieve on-the-ground results.
- Activity Based Costing will be linked to performance targets to identify unit costs of achieving performance outputs and outcomes. In turn, this information will help managers make more effective use of appropriated funds in accomplishing critical resource outcomes.
- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program works within the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force structure to ensure that Service efforts to address invasive species are well coordinated with States and other Federal agencies. The Invasive Species Program allocates funding for coordination and for projects. Allocating funding for coordination activities ensures that there is adequate capacity to implement projects. Project funding is allocated for the implementation of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (as amended by the National Invasive Species Act of 1996) and the Injurious Wildlife Provisions of the Lacey Act. In addition, the Program allocates funding for projects that are determined to be of high priority to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the National Invasive Species Council, the Department of Interior, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. On a yearly basis, allocations are made to meet the challenges posed by emerging invasive species issues and to maintain support of successful multi-year initiatives..
- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program participates with the National Invasive Species Council-coordinated the Invasive Species Cross-cut Budget, which encourages Federal coordination and cooperation on invasive species issues that benefit from an interagency approach. In FY06, the Invasive Species Program contributed to cross-cut initiatives on Prevention through Education, Early Detection and Rapid Response, Improvement of Ballast Water Management and Research Efforts, Screening of Deliberately Introduced Non-Native Organisms, Aquatic Area Monitoring, Asian Carp and Innovative Control Methodologies. We plan to actively participate with the National Invasive Species Council on cross-cutting, multi-agency invasive species initiatives in FY07 as they are developed with States and other Federal Agencies.
- The Marine Mammal Program has been documenting and assessing the effectiveness of numerous survey efforts and techniques, including cooperative, cross-agency activities that involve USGS BRD. This information is used to make cost projections for long term monitoring strategies that assess the status and trends of marine mammal populations, and fiscal resources are targeted to the most effective and efficient strategies.



Locations of populations of federal trust species with status currently declining or unknown, and lacking scientific survey and assessment data.

Source: Fisheries Information System Populations Module Database, FY 2004

Maintaining Program Accountability

The Fisheries Program has developed performance measures to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of resource activities and outcomes. By measuring performance, setting targets, and reporting on results, the Fisheries Program seeks to establish a record of accountability and to truly integrate program performance and budget.

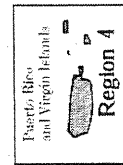
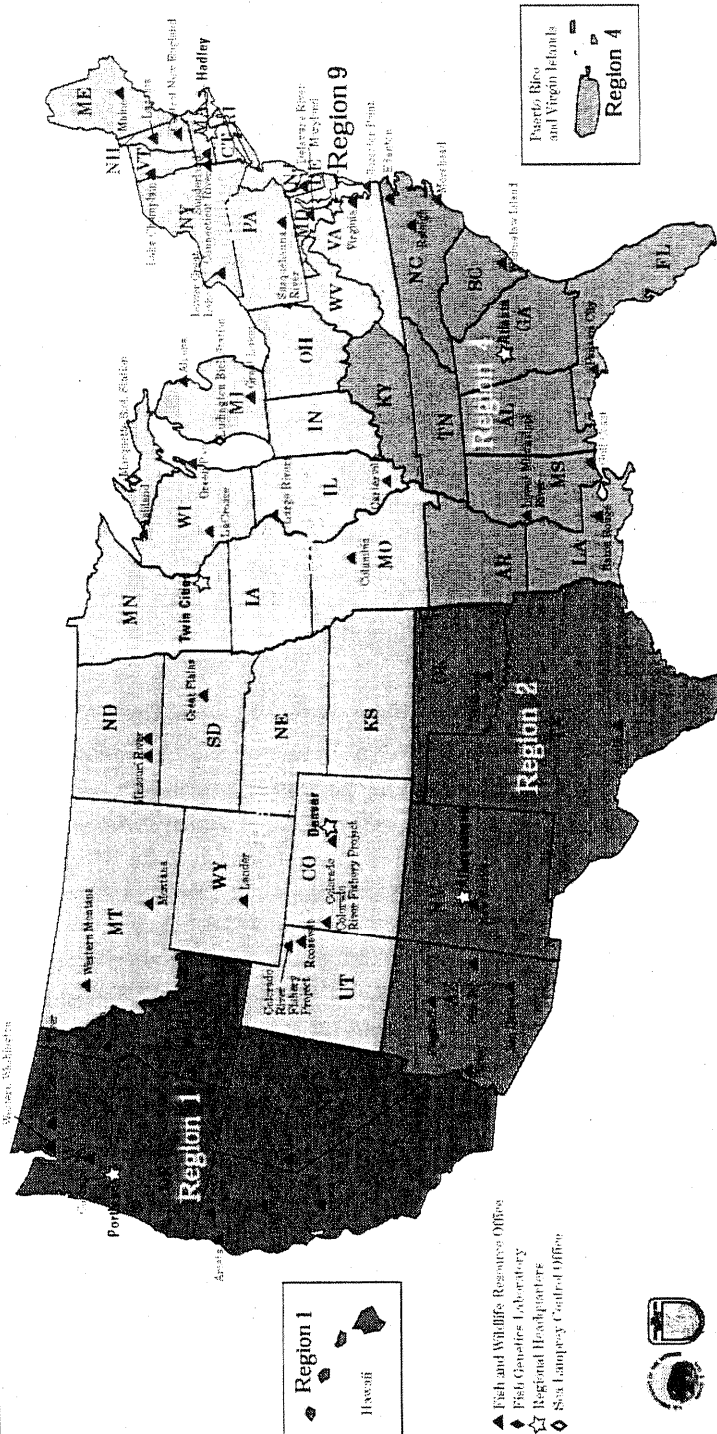
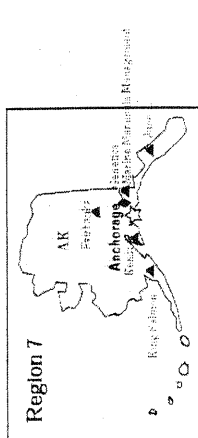
The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) has, at the request of the Service, initiated an independent evaluation of the Fisheries Program. The purpose is to provide objective input to the Program on how effectively it is meeting the goals and objectives in the Strategic Plan, with a particular emphasis on the Program's accountability to its partners. Results will guide management of the FWM program at all levels, and to enhance the Program's involvement and decision-making with its many external stakeholders.

Finally, FWM will undergo review by the Program Assessment Rating Tool (PART) in the next two years. Results of the PART review will be used to identify and facilitate management actions required to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the program in pursuit of its mission, and in meeting its annual and long-term performance targets and goals.

To more efficiently address aquatic resource conservation goals the Fisheries Program has made extensive use of complexing and co-location of its offices.

- Eighty percent of Fisheries Program field stations are complexed or co-located with other Fisheries Program offices or other Service or non-Service offices.
- The Service benefits by joining similar operations, improving operational efficiency, and providing one-stop shopping for Service customers.
- Cost savings may be realized by consolidating administrative staff functions, reducing space rental costs, and sharing equipment and other resources.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Stations



October 2006

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Restored 56 miles of stream and riparian habitat, removing non-native species, restoring natural stream flows, planting native vegetation, stabilizing decommissioned roads, and fencing lands to exclude livestock access. These projects increased habitat diversity, while decreasing water temperature, nutrient loading, and fine sediment in spawning areas.
- Opened 2,793 acres and 176 miles of historical habitat to fish passage by removing or bypassing 16 barriers through dam removal, culvert and road crossing renovation, renovating or screening irrigation diversions, and constructing fishways.
- Completed 62 habitat assessments that determined critical habitat of listed populations, identified degraded habitats and areas needing enhancement or restoration, and improved management of interjurisdictional fisheries.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Completed 16 cooperative agreements to involve Tribes in the recovery and restoration of culturally important species.
- Conducted 84 tribal consultations requesting information from tribal governments regarding fish and wildlife management for which trust responsibilities and other fiduciary obligations are attached to the United States.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Developed GIS and other databases to improve recovery and fisheries management decisions, including identifying all known freshwater mussel records from the northeast Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.

2005 Planned Program Performance

Program performance targets are set at the Fish and Wildlife Management Subactivity level. See the Program Performance Summary table.

In 2005, AFM is focusing more on improving anadromous fish habitat and conducting genetic population assessments to help managers delineate genetic distinctions among different populations of aquatic species, expand genetic baselines, and enhance recovery planning for listed species. Projects to improve anadromous fish habitat include (1) restoring fish passage for anadromous species including spring-run chinook salmon and steelhead, (2) restoring riparian and instream habitat, and (3) restoring historic access, flows, and water quality for shad, striped bass, and other aquatic species. Specifically, AFM will focus on:

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Participating on recovery teams that develop and implement recovery plans (sturgeon, bull trout, and freshwater mussels), and monitor and evaluate hatchery fish performance compared to wild populations of rare or declining native fish species.
- Continuing to support Atlantic salmon recovery in coordination with the states and other partners, implementing fish culture genetic protocols to maintain genetic diversity, collecting information on natural production to prioritize habitat restoration and supplementation efforts, and coordinating with cooperators on wild stock recovery.
- Working with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to rebuild and restore depleted Atlantic coastal fish populations of American eel and striped bass, and fairly allocate recovered fisheries through cooperative regulatory planning. Will also work to determine

status and monitor progress of cooperative fisheries conservation and management programs of the states for Atlantic sturgeon, shad, and river herring.

- Assessing interjurisdictional fish populations, and conducting population and habitat analyses, watershed planning, and habitat restoration to restore ecosystem functions with partners for the benefit of anadromous fish.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Assessing the biological fitness of salmonids by measuring the effects of carbaryl on physiological, behavioral, and performance measures of coastal cutthroat trout.
- Conduct a comprehensive survey for bull trout, and other fish species in the Quilcene River drainage, to assess whether Quilcene NFH facilities pose a barrier to these species.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Providing technical expertise and assistance to Tribes through such activities as management plan development, population assessment, and habitat restoration, and developing training programs to enhance fish and wildlife management efforts.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Publishing applied research in peer-reviewed scientific journals in order to disseminate information and ensure that information is state-of-the-art, scientifically sound, and legally defensible.

Justification of 2006 Program Changes

Subactivity		2006 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Anadromous Fish Management	\$(000)	10,465	+41
	FTE	97	0

The FY 2006 budget request for Anadromous Fish Management is \$10,465,000 and 97 FTE, a net program increase of \$41,000 and 0 FTE from the 2005 enacted level.

General Program Activities (+\$11,000)

General Program Activities, which comprises part of the base funding for Anadromous Fish Management, would be increased to \$8,254,000 in FY 2006. The fiscal year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447) included two across-the-board reductions, netting a 1.3 percent reduction to all Service programs. An increase of \$11,000 will restore funding to the 2004 enacted level and will allow the Service to maintain performance and base program capability. This increase would eliminate an unrequested increase of \$100,000 and restore \$111,000 rescinded in the 2005 appropriation, for a net increase of \$11,000. These funds enable the Service to more fully implement activities to conserve and manage anadromous (migratory) fishery resources and their habitats, focusing on culturally and economically significant species, such as Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon, American shad, sturgeon, and striped bass.

Increases to Address FY 2005 Rescissions (+\$31,000)

The fiscal year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447) included two across the board rescissions, netting a 1.3 percent reduction to all Service programs. An increase of \$31,000 will restore funding to the 2004 enacted level and will allow the Service to maintain performance and base program capability for Atlantic and Pacific salmon. This would allow Anadromous Fish Management to continue its efforts to recover listed fish populations by assessing populations and habitat and

restoring stream flows and aquatic habitat in concert with partners in FY 2006. In total, the President's budget includes an increase of \$31,000 within Anadromous Fish Management to address FY 2005 rescissions. Specifically, \$23,000 would be restored to Pacific Northwest Salmon, and \$8,000 would be restored for Atlantic Salmon Recovery. The restored funding will prevent a reduction in performance due to erosion of base funding.

Vehicle Reduction (-\$1,000)

The 2006 budget proposes a reduction of \$1,000 in the Anadromous Fish Management Program to recognize expected savings to be achieved through improved fleet management within the Service and across the Department of Interior.

Fish and Wildlife Assistance

Program Overview

Fish and Wildlife Assistance (FWA) is the second of three program elements within the FWM subactivity. It implements the DOI Resource Protection Goal of sustaining biological communities through all three Intermediate Outcome Goals of creating habitat conditions for *biological communities to flourish, managing populations to self-sustaining levels, and improving information base, information management and technical assistance*. FWA provides leadership and technical expertise to help federal, state, tribal, and private partners restore and manage fish and wildlife resources. The program conducts scientific assessments of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, develops and implements fish and wildlife management plans, and communicates scientific knowledge and expertise to tribes, other federal agencies, states, foreign governments, and other Service programs. The program also restores aquatic habitats, controls aquatic nuisance species, and restores fish passage to reconnect aquatic species to historical habitats.



FWM staff conduct assessments and surveys to gather status and trends data that is critical for effectively managing populations of native trust species and their habitats

FWA complements the work of other Service programs to achieve the agency's mission. The program works with the National Wildlife Refuge System to conduct population surveys in Refuge waters and help develop Comprehensive Conservation Plans. It works with the Endangered Species program by serving on and/or leading recovery teams, and with the Habitat Conservation program to review hydropower and other development projects. Through coordinated planning and post-stocking evaluation, FWA works with the National Fish Hatchery System to implement effective restoration and recovery programs for native fish and mussels. FWA measures the performance of captive propagation programs, works with stakeholders to develop management and restoration plans that define the appropriate use of hatchery fish, and measures progress toward meeting plan objectives.

Fish and Wildlife Assistance Core Areas

The core activities conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Assistance Program address the conservation and management of our Nation's aquatic species and their habitats.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

FWA works with partners to conserve and manage populations of native fish and other aquatic animals, using fishery management and recovery plans to guide conservation actions. FWM helps reverse declines in fish populations by developing and implementing restoration and recovery strategies, assessing the status of remnant stocks, preventing and controlling invasive species, evaluating population responses to stocking and habitat restoration, managing subsistence fishery harvest on Federal lands in Alaska, conducting genetic population assessments, and engaging in outreach activities.

At a regional and national level, FWA represents the Service on several joint ventures focused on restoring and managing native trust species. For example, FWA is active in the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, a unique partnership between state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, academia, and other partners and stakeholders. This joint venture represents a prototype project under the National Fish Habitat Initiative and is geographically-focused, locally-driven, scientifically-based effort to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the range of the Eastern brook trout (18 states from Maine to Georgia). The joint venture will maximize the expertise and partnerships throughout the range of Eastern brook trout through a collaborative, non-regulatory framework to stabilize and secure populations of native brook trout, aid in the restoration of watershed integrity, and promote stakeholder stewardship.

Aquatic Nuisance Species

- Under the mandates of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (as amended, National Invasive Species Act of 1996), the Aquatic Nuisance Species Program (ANS) prevents and controls aquatic invasive species. The ANS Program supports implementation of state and interstate ANS management plans, fosters development of new plans where none currently exist, and facilitates non-federal governmental and international involvement by supporting activities of regional ANS panels. Through its work, the ANS program supports Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force priorities by developing and implementing management plans to prevent the introduction and control the spread of specific aquatic invasive species. The ANS program educates the general public through the *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!* And *Habitatattitude* public awareness campaigns, as well as many other education and outreach efforts.



FWM biologists surveys for the early detection of non-native invasive aquatic species

These activities support DOI's Resource Protection Goal of *sustaining biological communities* through the Intermediate Outcome Goal of *creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish through prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control/management of aquatic invasive species*. These activities also support the Intermediate Outcome Goal to *improve information base, information management and technical assistance*. In FY 2005, the ANS Program will shift priorities to respond to newly discovered priorities, while maintaining its efforts to prevent the introduction of new invasive species, and control invasive species populations that are already established in U.S. waters.

Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Management

- Since 1999, the Service has successfully managed subsistence fisheries in 60 percent of Alaska's waters and will continue this program in FY 2005. The program is administered by the Federal Subsistence Board, whose members include a chair appointed by the Secretary, and the Alaska directors of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (lead agency), National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

A management and regulatory program integrates federal, state, tribal and local entities on more than 200 million acres of federal lands; implements a \$7 million annual fisheries monitoring plan to provide better information to managers; and develops technical capabilities in rural and tribal organizations to participate in subsistence fisheries management.



FWM conducts a variety of species and habitat management activities important to maintaining Alaska's subsistence fishery

The federal program supplements the State's management activities for 82 fish populations managed for subsistence fishery harvests. During fishing seasons, state and federal fisheries managers work cooperatively to evaluate fishery run strengths and strive to reach common management decisions. The program directly supports the DOI Resource Protection Goal and Intermediate Outcome Goal of *managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species*. These activities directly contribute to the DOI Resource Protection Goals of *sustaining biological communities through managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species*, and *improving information base, information management and technical assistance*.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

FWA works to manage and conserve habitat important to native trust populations. FWA assesses habitat conditions, identifies critical fish habitat needs, removes or bypasses artificial barriers, installs fish screens, performs instream and riparian habitat enhancement projects, and monitors and evaluates results.

Concept Model Structure

		Resource Issues	Information Systems	Organizational Structure
Scale	National	Fish are depleted, listed, or lost due to habitat conditions. Need to know: How many? Status & trends?	Need linkage and increased use of large-scale systems (National Biological Information Infrastructure-Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Node, GAP Analysis, Fish Passage Decision Support System, Fisheries Information System Populations Module)	National Fish Habitat Initiative
	Regional (1 to 100 thousand square miles)	Habitat degradation and loss are common issues at regional scale (coastal, Great Lakes, large river systems)	Many data sources (Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program, StreamNet, state resource agency databases)	Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resource Association , Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, etc. Regional Partnerships
	Local (less than 1,000 square miles)	Habitat conditions largely result from local scale resource issues (artificial barriers, poor land use practices)	Assessment of habitats and populations. Need to know: What info is needed to answer relevant questions?)	Local resources managers, watershed groups, Trout Unlimited chapters, etc. On-the-ground habitat projects

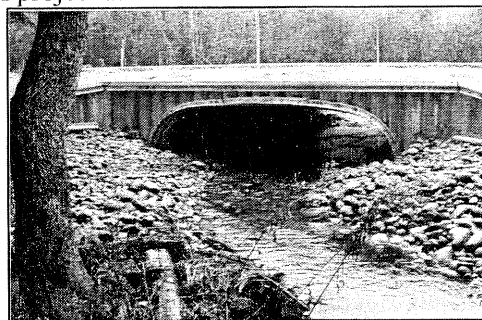
The National Fish Habitat Initiative relies on a multi-scale model of partnership/stakeholder involvement for effective cooperative conservation.

FWA has a lead role with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) in developing the National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI). NFHI is a nationwide strategy that harnesses the energies, expertise and partnerships of state and federal agencies and conservation organizations, to focus national attention and resources on common priorities to improve aquatic habitat health. Partners also include National Marine Fisheries Service, and the American Fisheries Society. Aquatic habitat management activities support the DOI Resource Protection Goal of *sustaining biological communities through creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish*.

Fish Passage Program

- Millions of man-made barriers block fish movement in the United States and contribute to the depletion of migratory fish species, including many that are threatened or endangered. The Fish Passage program removes and bypasses barriers on a voluntary basis in cooperation with willing partners who contribute approximately 60% of project fund.

The program is performance-and-results based, relying on scientific criteria to identify on-the-ground projects that yield the maximum benefits to the resource, and to a wide variety of stakeholders. As a means of identifying and ranking projects, the program utilizes the Fish Passage Decision Support System, a web-based modeling tool that provides science-based data for barrier removal scenarios. The program directly implements the DOI Resource Protection Goal and Intermediate Outcome Goal of *creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish*.



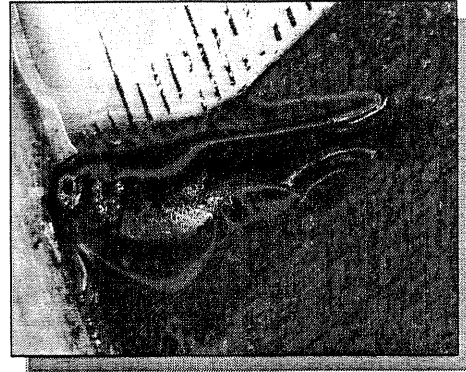
The National Fish Passage Program is one of many partnership-based, on-the-ground habitat restoration efforts in the Service.

Since its inception in 1999, 287 fish passage barriers have been removed or bypassed, and access to 3,490 miles of stream habitat and 70,910 acres has been restored. At least 20 federally-listed or candidate species have directly benefited.

Other FWA Activities Include:

Whirling Disease

- Since 1996, the Service has supported whirling disease research activities to identify causes and potential solutions. Truly a multi-entity issue, funds have been matched two-fold by in-kind contributions from states, non-governmental organizations, and universities, resulting in development of a large, diverse, talented, and coordinated consortium finding ways to control the whirling disease pathogen. Combined efforts have expanded the knowledge of the disease, its causative agent, and the agent's hosts (salmonid species and tubifex worms), and public awareness of the disease. These efforts will continue in FY 2006, as will efforts to identify potential management solutions.



FWM works to develop new methods for ensuring healthy stocks of hatchery-reared fish.

National Wild Fish Health Survey (NWFHS)

- The NWFHS is a dynamic fishery management tool initiated in FY1997 to provide information on pathogens in free-ranging fish and improve aquatic resource management. The NWFHS database became Internet-accessible September 2001, generating scientifically-sound information on a broad range of ecosystems and regions. Aquatic resource managers use this information to improve restoration, recovery, and resource management plans, and help draft legislation pertaining to aquatic animal movements. To support the President's Management Agenda for expanded E-government initiatives, the NWFHS database is Internet accessible to partner agencies and the public (<http://wildfishsurvey.fws.gov>).

Native American Tribal Assistance

- Tribal governments manage or influence some of the nation's most important fish and wildlife resources on more than 55 million acres on more than 300 Indian reservations. FWA works with tribes to assess fish and wildlife resources, develop management plans, coordinate fish stockings and habitat improvement, and evaluate results of management actions on fish and wildlife resources under tribal jurisdiction. For example, FWA implements the 2000 Consent Decree to manage fish stocks in the Great Lakes with 5 Chippewa/Ottawa Tribes and the State of Michigan, and works with Tribes to evaluate big game herds such as deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope on Montana reservations. The program directly supports the DOI Serving Communities Goal to *fulfill Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities by improving management of land and natural resource assets.*

Coordinated Fish and Wildlife management with Department of Defense on Military Installations

- The Sikes Act, as amended, requires the development, implementation, and regular review and revision of Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMPs) for military

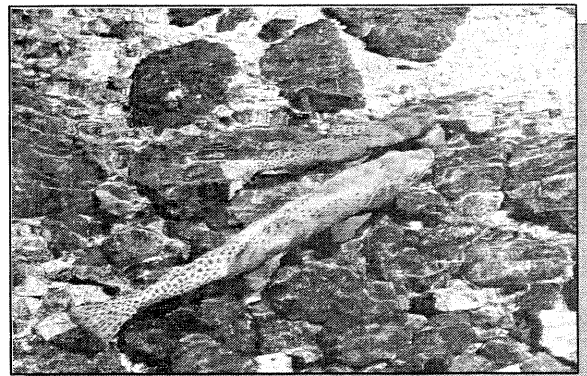
installations, as mutually agreed to by the Service, DOD and the appropriate State. INMRPs maximize the conservation of fish and wildlife resources without compromising the military mission of the installations. The Service assists military installations on INMRP issues by providing technical expertise to achieve environmental compliance and fully realize opportunities to enhance and recover fish and wildlife. A major challenge facing the Service, DOD, and the States in FY 2006 is completing the review and possible revision of over 370 INMRPs by the statutory deadline of November 2006. The Service will participate in this process by: (1) working with DOD at the national level to ensure a coordinated and effective process for reviewing and revising INMRPs before the statutory deadline; (2) seeking to establish transfer funding agreements with DOD at various levels to fund Service activities related to INMRPs; (3) participating in site visits and interagency meetings; (4) conducting fish, wildlife, and plant surveys and studies; (5) conducting habitat assessments; (6) monitoring fish and wildlife populations; (7) rearing and stocking recreational fisheries; (8) developing and implementing habitat restoration plans; and (9) developing and implementing public recreation programs for hunting, fishing, bird watching, and environmental education activities. These activities support DOI's Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of *improving health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources*, through the DOI Intermediate Goal of *improving information base, resource management and technical assistance*.

2004 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Fish and Wildlife Assistance program accomplished the following activities with the \$41,468,000 appropriated toward Fish and Wildlife Assistance in FY 2004:

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Completed 26 management plans, including Recovery Plans, restoration and fishery management plans, and habitat plans, in cooperation with partners.
- Conducted 634 aquatic population assessments and 134 terrestrial population assessments of federal trust species, thereby providing scientific information critical to the development and refinement of management plans, and for the improvement of fisheries decision making. Assessments included marking and tagging fish, genetic sampling, quantitative stock assessments, and provided important status and trend data for federally listed and/or depleted populations.
- Launched a new public awareness campaign in cooperation with the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), state fish and game agencies, and NOAA's Sea Grant program in September 2004. The Habitattitude campaign has significant support and involvement of two different, but related sectors, the pet and aquarium trade and the nursery and landscape industry. The campaign promotes the core message, "Do Not Release Fish and Aquatic Plants" into the environment. PIJAC's goal over next 2-3 years is to reach 50 million US pet-owning households through the Habitattitude campaign by involving the highest volume U.S. pet retailers and 2,000-3,000 independent pet retailers.



Greenback cutthroat trout in the Rocky Mountains, one of the 1,645 populations of federal trust species that FWM currently helps to manage.

- Encouraged and facilitated non-Federal efforts to respond to growing invasive species problems by supporting the implementation of 16 comprehensive State and interstate ANS management plans. The support, provided to 17 State and Tribal entities, established important incentives for prevention and control initiatives.
- Developed an invasive species pathway management initiative and corresponding NCTC-sponsored training course designed to assist natural resource managers in taking necessary precautions so that they do not inadvertently spread invasive species in the course of the natural resource work. In 2004, 24 Service employees; 7 State agency employees; 2 Sea Grant employees; 2 NOAA employees; 2 NPS employees; 1 NRCS employee; and 1 DOD employee completed the pathway management technique training and of these 12 also were trained as trainers. The trained trainers may provide NCTC-sponsored training to natural resource managers at the local and regional levels.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Restored or enhanced 119 miles of stream and riparian habitat by removing non-native species, restoring natural stream flows, planting native vegetation, stabilizing decommissioned roads, and fencing lands to exclude livestock access. These projects increased habitat diversity, while decreasing water temperature, nutrient loading, and fine sediment in spawning areas.
- Opened 3,859 acres and 1,208 miles of historical habitat to fish passage by removing or bypassing 90 barriers through dam removal, culvert and road crossing renovation, renovating or screening irrigation diversions, and constructing fishways.
- Completed 463 habitat assessments that determined critical habitat of listed populations, identified degraded habitats and areas needing enhancement or restoration, and improved management of interjurisdictional fisheries. Assessments covered 34,604 miles of instream and riparian habitat, and 635,128 acres of wetland and 81,710 acres of upland habitat.

Public Use

- Supported National Fishing and Boating Week events, and other federal, state, tribal, and conservation organization fishing day events through coordination, assistance, and technical expertise.

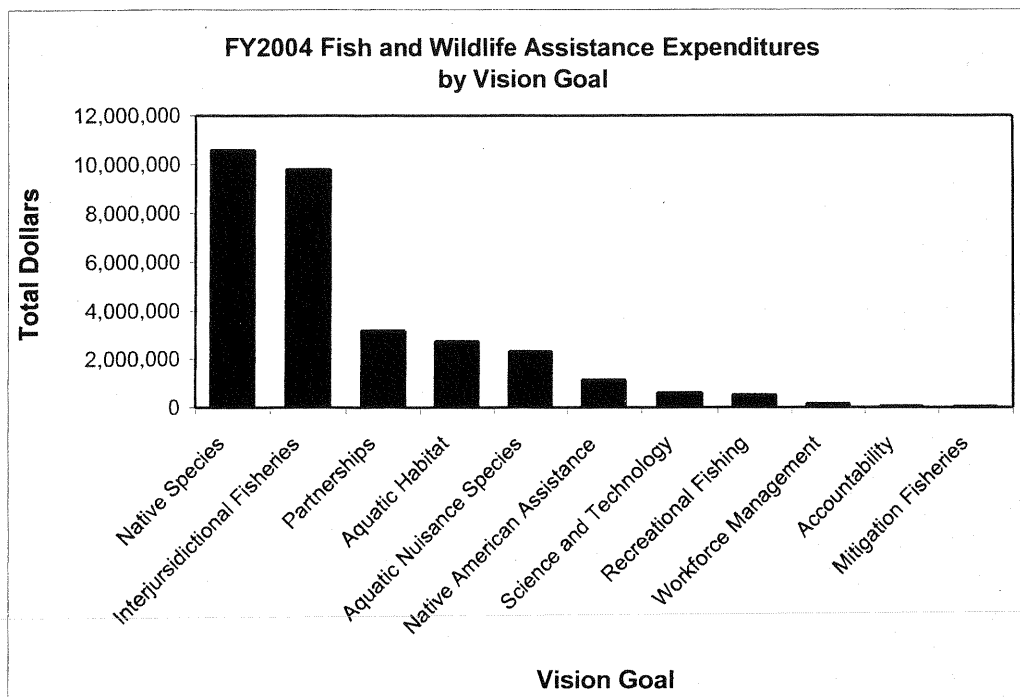
Cooperation with Native Americans

- Provided funding to the Quinault and Chehalis Indian Tribes for salmon recovery activities as mandated by the Chehalis River Basin Act of 1990.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Developed a web-based geographic information system (GIS) database to inventory all information on current and historic status and distribution of lake sturgeon throughout the Great Lakes. Assisted with coordination and planning of binational, regional, state, and local GIS activities, developed spatial data and procedures for Great Lakes data, and provided technical assistance for implemented and utilizing Geographic Information Systems.
- Co-hosted a workshop with USGS, titled Workshop on Future Fish Passage Management and Research Needs. Over 100 managers, researchers, and engineers from federal, state, local, non-governmental and private entities attended the workshop to 1) enhance knowledge and understanding of the current capabilities and technologies for providing fish passage; 2)

identify information and research needs and mechanisms to address them, and 3) identify mechanisms for national or regional collaboration.



Total FY 2004 expenditures for activities conducted under Fish and Wildlife Management (1332) by Fisheries Program Strategic Vision Goal

Source: Fisheries Information System Accomplishments Module Database, FY 2004

2005 Planned Program Performance

Program performance targets are set at the Fish and Wildlife Management Subactivity level. See the Program Performance Summary table.

In 2005, FWMA is focusing on restoring and assessing habitat for imperiled species, developing and implementing recovery plans (sturgeon, bull trout, and freshwater mussels), evaluating hatchery fish contribution and interactions with wild populations of depleted native fish species (such as coaster brook trout, lake sturgeon, and lake trout), and continuing to manage salmon and other fish species in Alaska's rivers and lakes under federal subsistence management authority. Priorities include:

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Working with the 28 Mississippi River basin states to assess paddlefish and sturgeon, and provide population level biological data required to manage export certifications of these interjurisdictional species.
- Monitoring Yukon River salmon stock escapements on National Wildlife Refuges and the mainstem Yukon River in cooperation with the State of Alaska and stakeholders living along the Yukon River drainage to maintain the conservation of the Yukon River salmon stocks and implement the Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada.

- Continuing to support the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture as a lead federal participant, in partnership with other federal agencies, 18 states, and non-governmental organizations.
- Enhancing capabilities to detect and rapidly respond to new infestations of zebra mussels developing a rapid response plan for zebra mussels in the west, establishing a zebra mussel monitoring network, and expanding education and outreach efforts. These activities will complement the 100th Meridian Initiative and build upon the education and outreach efforts aimed at preventing the spread of zebra mussels and other ANS during the celebration of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial event.
- Conducting risk assessments to evaluate at least 2 new non-native species that threaten native species populations or habitats, focusing attention on species with the greatest potential to adversely affect native species and their habitats. If warranted, species may be considered for listing under the injurious wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act.
- Develop a new marketing campaign in partnership with NOAA and the Maritime Administration targeting the ballast water pathway to complement on going technology development activities.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Serving as the lead federal partner with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and others to develop the National Fish Habitat Plan. During 2005, FWA will participate on a multi-agency work group to develop the NFHI Plan, including scientifically valid measures of habitat health and information systems. This plan will foster geographically-focused, locally-driven, scientifically-based partnerships to protect, restore, and enhance aquatic habitats, and reverse declines in aquatic species. Service contributions will include serving on the work group that drafts the Plan, coordinating scientific databases with other agencies to support the Plan, and developing communication strategies to enlist local, regional and national partners.
- Working with partners to remove or bypass 85 fish passage barriers in interjurisdictional waters and complete approximately 4 barrier inventories, encompassing 1,000 miles of instream and riparian habitat, as well as 19,000 acres of wetland and upland habitat.
- Coordinating restoration and monitoring activities in cooperation with the Trinity River Task Force, integrating collection and modeling of biological, physical, and hydrology/water quantity and quality information. This information is helping the Service recover species and avoid further listings for salmon, cutthroat trout, green sturgeon, and Pacific lamprey populations. FWA is focusing on monitoring and adaptive management components, and is currently working with the Trinity Management Council to select highest priority monitoring and restoration projects.
- Continuing to collect baseline information for the Klamath River Flow Study to assess fish habitat conditions, determine the relationship between habitat and flow regimes, and evaluate conditions limiting species survival in the river and its tributaries below Iron Gate Dam. Actions resulting from the study will help recover species, avoid further listings, enhance tribal trust responsibilities, restore recreational fisheries and related local economies, and reduce impacts of conservation efforts on water users.

Public Use

- Enhancing recreational fishing for native fish species on Refuge and military lands by updating Refuge comprehensive conservation plans and fishery management plans, monitoring fish population status and trends, creating additional fishing access, enhancing habitat, and conducting outreach activities.
- Supporting National Fishing and Boating Week events, and other federal, state, tribal, and conservation organization fishing day events through coordination, assistance, and technical expertise.
- Actively participate in the Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership, comprising 12 states, NOAA Fisheries, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the fishery management councils and commissions, for the expressed purpose of increasing recreational fishing and other sustainable uses of aquatic resources by the public.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Fulfilling legal responsibilities for the US v. Michigan Consent Decree by providing critical biological and management assistance to tribal and state partners, participating on the Technical Fisheries Committee, and conducting studies to evaluate the success of the management actions to enhance lake trout restoration efforts in Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior. These activities will lead to the restoration of native lake trout and the optimal harvest of tribal and state sport and commercial fisheries.
- Entering into 49 Intergovernmental Personnel Act agreements with Tribes nationwide for the purposes of training, intergovernmental understanding, and facilitation.
- Assisting Tribes in developing proposals under the Tribal Wildlife Grant, Tribal Landowner Incentive, and other federal and national programs.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Updating the internal Fisheries Information System (all modules) to provide greater program-wide utility by moving to a real-time web-based format, providing all Fisheries Program facilities with access to the system at any time via the internet. The FIS upgrade will allow for the system to be utilized by all FWA staff (field, Regional and National offices), ultimately improving the Program's overall capabilities to manage federal trust species at multiple scales.

Justification of 2006 Program Changes

Subactivity		2006 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Fish and Wildlife Assistance	\$(000)	36,735	-7,073
	FTE	243	+6

The FY 2006 budget request for Fish and Wildlife Assistance is \$36,735,000 and 243 FTE, a net program decrease of \$7,073,000 and a 6 FTE increase from the FY 2005 enacted level.

General Program Activities (-\$1,141,000)

General program funding in Fish and Wildlife Assistance will be reduced by \$1,141,000 from the FY 2005 enacted level to offset funding increases elsewhere in the President's budget that address other high priorities. The Service will continue to pursue FWA program goals using existing funding by working with our State and Tribal partners, and utilizing alternative funding sources such as the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Programs. Specific reductions in performance will be determined at the Regional level in consultation with states, tribes, and other partners. Expected effects on program

performance may include reductions of 66 miles of stream re-opened to fish passage, 22 miles of stream/shoreline and 172 acres of wetland/upland restored, 61 population assessments completed, 44 technical assistance requests from tribes fulfilled, and 22 consultations with tribes completed. The decrease may also reduce the rate of recovery and restoration of trust fish species and recreational fishing opportunities.

Aquatic Nuisance Species (-\$102,000)

The 2006 budget proposes a \$102,000 reduction for aquatic nuisance species activities. The Service will work in collaboration with its partners to leverage additional funding to implement the Asian carp management and control plan and to further the evaluation of control methods for Asian carp.

Fish Health/Whirling Disease Survey (-\$768,000)

In FY 2005, Congress provided the eighth year of funding for the National Partnership to subcontract research on prevention and control measures for whirling disease in salmonids. Activities to date have generated significant information that has been applied in field settings for the management of whirling disease. The Partnership has been very successful for a number of year and the major objectives of the partnerships have achieved. As the National Partnership winds down its research on whirling disease, base funds will be directed to Service-conducted disease and fish health activities. The Service continues to view whirling disease work by the National Partnership as a major issue and will evaluate the application of base funding to this effort depending on other Service priority needs.

Montana Whirling Disease Foundation (-\$345,000)

In FY 2005, Congress provided funding to the Montana Whirling Disease Foundation for research targeted at mechanisms of disease resistance in several salmonid strains and their potential for helping control whirling disease. In FY 2006, the Service has eliminated these funds in order to offset funding increases elsewhere in the President's budget request that are necessary to address higher priority needs. This decrease will impact the Foundation's ability to conduct surveys and studies, as well as its data analysis capability.

Wildlife Health Center in Montana (-\$394,000)

Funding for this program is eliminated to offset funding increases elsewhere in the President's budget request that are necessary to address higher priority needs. The mission of the Wildlife Health Center is to investigate diseases of wildlife that can negatively impact the health of livestock and humans. The Service does not have the necessary expertise or infrastructure to oversee this type of research program and relies on the Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to address its biological research needs. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan. As a result, this decrease will not affect FWM's ability to meet strategic goals.

Washington State Mass Marking (-\$2,071,000)

In FY 2005, Congress provided funding to assist the Service in mass-marking all salmon (including, but not limited to coho, Chinook, and steelhead) at all Pacific Region National Fish Hatcheries. Funding was used to comply with section 138 of P.L. 108-7 that requires the Service to implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks released from Federally operated or financed hatcheries, except those for restoration, recovery, research, tribal programs and where there is no selective fishery. This effort is to serve as a management tool which would allow for selective fisheries on hatchery stocks and minimize harvest impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service was successful in meeting this directive in FY 2005. This funding reduction is consistent with the Fisheries Program's National Strategic Plan, which focuses the Program's limited resources on mission-critical activities that can be undertaken using Service facilities and personnel. This

project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan. As a result, this decrease will not affect FWM's ability to meet strategic goals.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program (-\$493,000)

In FY 2005, as authorized by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act amendments of 1998, Congress provided funding for state and tribal proposals to aid in the fulfillment of Service responsibilities for implementation of the 32 recommendations in the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study. In FY 2005, the Service is providing \$75,000 of base funds to supplement the funds provided by Congress, for a total of \$568,000 to states and tribes to restore native fish and aquatic habitats. Alternative funding sources that could support these activities include State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan. As a result, this decrease will not affect FWM's ability to meet strategic goals.

Habitat Restoration (-\$158,000)

In FY 2005, Congress provided \$158,000 to increase Service capabilities to restore aquatic habitat. This funding is being used to begin to implement the National Fish Habitat Initiative, a geographically focused cooperative effort to protect, restore, and enhance aquatic habitats and reverse declines in fish and aquatic species. Specifically, the funding will provide "seed money" to assist the partners in formulating a joint venture approach to prioritize aquatic habitat conservation needs, to identify actions to reverse species declines, and to track progress in conserving habitats and associated aquatic species. Funding for this program is eliminated in FY 2006 to offset increases elsewhere in the President's budget request that are necessary to address other high priority needs.

Fish Passage Improvements (-\$1,639,000)

Since FY 1999, the Fish Passage Program has funded cost-share projects to remove or bypass barriers to fish passage. In FY 2005, Congress provided an additional \$2,500,000 in funding for this program. In FY 2006, funding for this program is reduced by \$1,639,000 to a total of \$2,000,000, which is \$810,000 above the FY 2005 President's request. The reduction will result in 60 fewer barriers removed or bypassed, and 733 fewer miles and 14,346 fewer acres opened for access to fish passage. The Service will continue to pursue the goals through other options by working with its State and Tribal partners, and utilizing alternative funding sources such as the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program.

Yukon River Salmon Treaty (-\$353,000)

The funding of \$2,980,000 to implement the Yukon River Salmon Agreement represents a decrease of \$353,000 from the FY 2005 enacted level. Signed as an Executive Agreement in 2002 after 16 years of deliberation between the U.S. and Canada, the Agreement amends the Pacific Salmon Treaty and sets into place conservation measures and catch shares for Canadian-origin salmon that are harvested by U.S. and Canadian fishers. The cooperative management approach outlined in the Agreement promotes coordinated management, on-the-ground habitat assessment and restoration, and much-needed scientific assessment. Implementation of the Agreement is contributing substantially to U.S. and Canadian efforts to rebuild depressed Canadian-origin salmon populations, bolster efforts to protect and restore spawning and rearing habitats in Canada, and thereby benefit U.S. and Canadian fishers. Most of the funds are being distributed to the State of Alaska and the private sector via contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements.

FY 2006 funds will be used to:

- Pay the U.S. share of costs associated with the Yukon River Panel and its advisory groups. (\$450,000)

- Meet the U.S. financial obligation to the Yukon River Salmon Restoration and Enhancement Fund for Canadian-origin salmon. (\$1,200,000)
- Fund local-scale research and management projects in the U.S. portion of the drainage, in cooperation with Native and fishing organizations, and individual fishers. Approximately four population assessments will be conducted. (\$255,000; -\$95,000 from FY 2005 enacted)
- Fund large-scale Service and State projects to improve information for salmon management, and ensure escapements to Canada without unnecessarily foregoing harvests of salmon in U.S. waters. Approximately four population assessments will be conducted. (\$717,000; -\$258,000 from FY 2005 enacted.)

The reduction of \$353,000 is reflected in the funds for local-scale research and management projects (-\$95,000, reducing populations assessments conducted from 6 to 4) and the large-scale Service and State projects (-\$258,000, reducing population assessments conducted from 6 to 4).

Increases to Address FY 2005 Rescissions (+\$239,000)

The fiscal year 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447) included two across the board rescissions, netting a 1.3 percent reduction to all Service programs. An increase of \$239,000 will restore funding to the 2004 enacted level and will allow the Service to maintain performance and base program capability. This would allow Fish and Wildlife Assistance to continue a wide variety of efforts to conserve fish and aquatic resources and their habitats in concert with partners in FY 2006. In total, the President's budget includes an increase of \$239,000 within Fish and Wildlife Assistance to address FY 2005 rescissions. Specifically, \$3,000 would be restored for fisheries conservation associated with the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project in Florida; \$151,000 would be restored to meet federal fisheries subsistence management responsibilities in Alaska; \$10,000 would be restored to continue the Klamath River Flow Study in California; \$34,000 would be restored to continue cooperative restoration and monitoring in support of Trinity River restoration in California; \$20,000 would be restored conserve Pacific Northwest salmon in the Columbia River Basin; and \$9,000 would be restored to continue implementation of DOI responsibilities under the Great Lakes Consent Decree by providing biological expertise and technical assistance to the State of Michigan and the Tribes. In addition, \$12,000 would be restored to support management and operations of the international Great Lakes sea lamprey control program, providing a total of \$889,000 for this purpose. The total cost of the Service's contribution to the sea lamprey program is projected at \$1,333,418 in FY 2006. The restored funding will prevent a reduction in performance due to erosion of base funding.

Vehicle Reduction (-\$6,000)

The 2006 budget proposes a reduction of \$6,000 in the Fish and Wildlife Assistance program to recognize expected savings to be achieved through improved fleet management within the Service and across the Department of Interior.

Technical Adjustment (+\$158,000)

This reflects a technical adjustment to reconcile to the Department of the Interior's support table.

Marine Mammals

Program Overview

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) assigns the Department of the Interior responsibility for the management of polar bears, walrus, sea and marine otters, three species of manatees, and dugongs. This responsibility has been delegated to the Service. Under the MMPA, marine mammal

populations, and the health and stability of marine ecosystems upon which they depend, are required to be maintained at, or returned to, healthy levels. The Marine Mammal Program conserves and manages northern sea otter in Alaska and Washington, polar bear and Pacific walrus in Alaska, and supports recovery of the listed southern sea otter in California and the West Indian manatee in Florida and Puerto Rico.

Although the Service has sole responsibility for managing our trust species, to be successful, it is imperative that we collaborate with our partners and stakeholders who have expertise and interest in marine mammal science and issues. This includes cooperation, consultation and communication with other Federal agencies (including, NOAA-Fisheries, the Marine Mammal Commission, and USGS/BRD), State Governments, Alaska Native Organizations, scientists from numerous institutions and organizations, industry groups, non-governmental organizations, and others. Through active collaboration, valuable information and strategies are obtained, which enhance the effectiveness of our efforts to implement the MMPA.

To carry out its responsibilities, the Service:

- prepares, reviews, and revises species management plans and stock assessments (required by the MMPA);
- assesses population status and trends;
- develops and implements management plans and habitat conservation strategies;
- promulgates and implements incidental take regulations;
- conducts harvest monitoring projects for Alaska species;
- implements the Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program for polar bears, walrus, and northern sea otters harvested by Alaska Natives;
- implements the 1973 International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears between the U.S., Canada, Russia, Norway, and Denmark (for Greenland); and
- develops other international agreements for shared marine mammal populations.

The Service works with Alaska Native organizations to assess subsistence harvest and gather biological information from harvested animals. The MMPA does not provide a mechanism for regulating subsistence harvest of marine mammals until a stock becomes depleted. However, for some stocks, cooperative efforts with Alaska Native organizations have resulted in voluntary harvest guidelines, which provide the primary harvest management tool for non-depleted Alaska stocks. The Service is also working with its partners and Congress to reauthorize the MMPA.

The Marine Mammal Program's activities support the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water, by managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species and improving information base, information management, and technical assistance. Marine Mammal Program activities also help to ensure a traditional subsistence lifestyle for Alaska Natives by contributing to the long-term health and stability of Alaska marine mammals.

2004 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Marine Mammal Program, working in collaboration with other Federal agencies, State partners, Alaska Native partners and others, accomplished the following critical tasks in FY 2004 with \$4.569 million in appropriated funds:

- **MMPA Section 119 Cooperative Agreements:** Cooperative agreements with three Alaska Native Organizations for monitoring and management of polar bears, northern sea otters, and walrus, were maintained. As a result of added funds provided by the FY 2004 Interior Appropriations Act, the scope of these agreements, which were expanded in FY 2002 to include activities pertaining to harvest monitoring, traditional knowledge surveys, and biological monitoring, were maintained.
- **Southwest Alaska DPS of Northern Sea Otters:** Information on the status of the southwest Alaska distinct population segment (DPS) of northern sea otter was compiled and analyzed. Based on this information, this DPS was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act as threatened and, therefore, depleted under the MMPA. Further surveys indicate the population decline is continuing.
- **Status and Trends of Marine Mammal Populations:** As a result of additional funds provided in the FY 2004 Interior Appropriations Act, we made progress on efforts to develop techniques for conducting a range-wide walrus survey. These efforts included working cooperatively with Russian colleagues to develop Russian thermal scanner technology that is compatible with U.S. systems as well as working with USGS/BRD to develop functional satellite transmitters to determine walrus haulout cycles on ice.
- **Manage Marine Mammal Incidental Take:** Issued final rule under Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA to renew previous regulations authorizing the incidental taking of polar bear and Pacific walrus, primarily by passive harassment, during the course of oil and gas industry activities in the area of the North Slope of Alaska. These regulations require terms and conditions that minimize the total takings and establish processes for monitoring industry impacts to the species through the issuance of Letters of Authorization. Staff conducted extensive training and informational outreach for workers in the oilfields to ensure that personnel likely to encounter polar bears had appropriate safety training and tools to minimize adverse impacts to polar bears.
- **Alaska Native Harvest Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program:** This program enables us to gather data on Native subsistence and handicraft harvest as well as biological information on polar bears, sea otters, and walruses in Alaska.
- **Washington Office Staff:** Provided technical and coordinating assistance for the Service's marine mammal efforts, including the promulgation of rulemakings regarding manatee refuges in Florida; and represented the Service on the "Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals," facilitated by Marine Mammal Commission.

2005 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2005, the Marine Mammal Program will continue to engage in activities that support DOI's Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water, under the Intermediate Outcome Goals of managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species and improving information base, information management, and technical assistance. We will continue to collaborate with our partners to accomplish our goals, and we will seek to develop other beneficial partnerships. Significant FY 2005 accomplishments in the program at the appropriated funding level of \$4.572 million will include:

- **MMPA Section 119 Cooperative Agreements:** Maintaining cooperative agreements with three Alaska Native Organizations for monitoring and management of polar bears, sea otters, and walrus. As a result of funds provided by the FY 2005 Interior Appropriations Act, the scope of these agreements, which were expanded in FY 2002, will continue to include activities pertaining to harvest monitoring, traditional knowledge surveys, and biological monitoring.
- **International Agreements:** Continuing work with Congress, Alaska Native partners, and Russia to ensure implementation of the bi-lateral U.S.-Russia agreement for the conservation and management of the shared Chukchi/Bering Seas polar bear population. The agreement unifies management programs between the U.S. and Russia and calls for the active involvement of Native people and their organizations in Russia and Alaska in managing the shared polar bear population, including the establishment of harvest levels.
- **Status and Trends of Marine Mammal Populations:** Using funds provided in the FY 2005 Interior Appropriations Act to continue development of techniques to conduct a range-wide walrus survey in FY 2006. This will include working cooperatively with Russian colleagues to carry out and coordinate survey efforts as well as working with USGS/BRD to develop functional satellite transmitters.
- **Southwest Alaska DPS of Northern Sea Otters:** Continuing efforts to finalize the rulemaking to list the southwest Alaska distinct population segment of northern sea otter as threatened under the ESA. Efforts will include supporting outreach and public hearings related to this listing.
- **Stock Assessment Reports:** Beginning the process of updating our stock assessments, as required under the MMPA, for polar bear, walrus, and sea otter populations in Alaska, describing the extent and impact of commercial fishing operations, serious injuries, and human-related mortalities.
- **Manage Marine Mammal Incidental Take:** Providing technical support and assistance to oil and gas industry as it develops a request for revising regulations authorizing the incidental taking of polar bears and walrus during the course of the industry activities in the area of the North Slope of Alaska for a period of five years. Efforts will be made to propose such regulations in 2005.
- **Washington Office Technical and Coordination Assistance:** Continuing the support of efforts pertaining to the Washington state population of northern sea otters as well as the ESA-listed southern sea otter and West Indian manatee. These efforts include providing support to field and Regional staff to update stock assessment reports, determine the disposition of the experimental sea otter population at San Nicolas Island, CA, and further assess the possibility of promulgating incidental take regulations for various activities that take manatees in Florida. The program will continue to represent the Service on the "Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals." The Advisory Committee plans to provide its Report to Congress in FY2005.

The Marine Mammal Program continues to improve and implement population surveys in partnership with USGS/BRD and to assess subsistence harvest levels and trends of sea otters, walrus, and polar bears in Alaska. This information is used to make cost projections for long term monitoring strategies

that assess the status and trends of marine mammal populations, and fiscal resources are targeted to the most effective and efficient strategies.

Justification of 2006 Program Changes

Subactivity		2006 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Marine Mammals	\$(000)	2,485	-2,137
	FTE	21	0

The FY 2006 budget request for Marine Mammals is \$2,485,000 and 21 FTE, a net program decrease of \$2,137,000 and 0 FTE from the 2005 enacted level.

General Program Activities (+\$35,000)

General Program Activities, which comprises the base funding for Marine Mammals, would be increased from \$2,403,000 in FY 2005 to \$2,438,000 in FY 2006. This increase would restore the \$35,000 in rescissions made by the 2005 appropriation, enabling the Service to fully implement activities to conserve and manage marine mammals in support of the DOI Strategic Plan End Outcome Goal to Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water. The increase would be spread across activities, such as surveying and monitoring, which benefit all FWS species in Alaska, improving our coordination and partnership efforts, primarily with Alaska Natives, Russia, and Canada. The increase would have no impact on the number of FTEs under Marine Mammals.

Alaska Marine Mammals, AK (-\$2,169,000)

Projects and grant-funded tasks under this activity are anticipated to be successfully completed in FY 2005; therefore, funding for this activity is eliminated to offset funding increases elsewhere in the President's budget request that are necessary to address higher priority needs. In FY 2005, funding of Alaska Marine Mammals is targeted to two areas: (1) \$1,183,000 for cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations and (2) \$986,000 for marine mammal surveys in Alaska.

The FY 2005 appropriation included \$1,183,000 for grants to develop and implement cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations, under Section 119 of the *Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972*, as amended in 1994. These agreements enhance the management of polar bears, Pacific walrus, and sea otters. In FY 2005, funds are being provided to the Eskimo Walrus Commission, the Alaska Sea Otter and Steller Sea Lion Commission, and the Alaska Nanuuq (Polar Bear) Commission, where they continue to be used to develop the management capabilities of the Native community for locally directed subsistence harvest. The funds help bring together people from remote villages to develop and implement effective and consensus management strategies, which enhances communication within the Native community and between the Native community and the Service. Other cooperative projects increase local involvement in gathering environmental data and compiling traditional knowledge to support sustainable use of marine mammal subsistence resources. The Service anticipates that these grant-funded tasks will be completed in FY 2005.

The FY 2005 Appropriation also included \$986,000 for the continued development of marine mammal population survey methods in Alaska. These funds provide the opportunity to obtain biological information to address high priority resource issues. They also help develop, test, and implement survey techniques relating to walrus, sea otters and polar bears in Alaska. Survey activities undertaken with these funds will evaluate feasibility of using aerial survey thermal sensory photography to estimate walrus numbers, thus increasing the Service's ability to conduct critical abundance estimates for Pacific walrus. In addition, aerial sea otter surveys funded with these dollars

will help evaluate regional trends for a declining population as well as questions regarding potential seasonal distribution changes within specific regions where numbers of sea otters have been depleted. Additional surveys conducted with these funds will improve information on the distribution of the southern Beaufort Sea polar bear populations. Recently, a significant portion of this population has increased its use of coastal habitats in the fall, when open-water freezes up. This shift in habitat use may result in a change in feeding behavior and also increases the potential for polar bear/human interactions, both of which pose serious management issues. Successful completion of these projects also is expected during FY 2005.

Vehicle Reduction (-\$3,000)

The 2006 budget proposes a reduction of \$3,000 in the Marine Mammals Program to recognize expected savings to be achieved through improved fleet management within the Service and across the Department of Interior.

Program Performance Summary

Program Performance Summary: Fisheries/Fish and Wildlife Management

End Outcome Goal: Resource Protection - Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water							
End Outcome Measures	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Budget Request	FY 2005 Plan	FY 2006 Plan	Change in Perfor- mance – FY 2005 to FY 2006	Long-term Target FY 2008
% of species of management concern managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States and others, as defined in approved management plans (SP)	UNK	14% 23/165	22% 39/176	18% 30/165	18% 30/165	0	18% 30/165
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	50% 5/10	50% 5/10	50% 5/10	50% 5/10	50% 5/10	0	50% 5/10
% of aquatic threatened or endangered species for which FWMA activities contribute to conservation. (SP)	UNK	36% 35/96	27% 26/96	36% 35/96	36% 35/96	0	36% 35/96
% of aquatic candidate species for which FWMA conducts conservation actions (SP)	UNK	50% 2/4	50% 7/14	50% 2/4	50% 2/4	0	50% 2/4
Intermediate Outcome: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.							
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							
<i>Habitat Restoration:</i> Number of acres and stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation (SP)							
Wetland acres.....	669	549	257	1214	658	-556	549
Upland acres.....	9,734	301	976	665	361	-304	301

Stream miles.....	210	96	150	212	115	-97	96
Shoreline miles.....	113	187	93	413	224	-189	187
Habitat restoration: # of acres/miles re-opened to fish passage (BUR)							
Acres.....	9,731	6,717	8,039	14,851	8,049	-6,802	6,717
Miles.....	572	1,644	357	3,635	1,970	-1,665	1,644
Prevention: # of risk assessments conducted (BUR)	29	151	4	5	4	0	6
Invasive Species Prevention: # of ballast water technologies supported (BUR)	2	1	2	4	2	0	5
Early Detection: # of surveys conducted for early detection (invasive species) (BUR)	40	388	45	41	41	-4	54
	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Budget Request	FY 2005 Plan	FY 2006 Plan	Change in Performance – FY 2005 to FY 2006	Long-term Target FY 2008
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures (cont'd.)							
Rapid Response: # of populations (plant and animal) rapidly responded to (invasive species) (BUR)	6	25	8	7	8	0	10
Forge Effective Partnerships: # of state/interstate plans supported (invasive species) (BUR)	13	57	14	20	14	0	35
Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed (BUR)	91	131	24	290	157	-133	138
Forge Effective Partnerships: # of public awareness campaigns conducted and supported (invasive species) (BUR)	2	43	3	2	3	0	2
Forge Effective Partnerships: # of partnerships (invasive species) (BUR)	UNK	357	50	60	50	0	80
# of surveys conducted for baseline/trend information (invasive species) (BUR)	23	396	43	45	39	-4	57
Intermediate Outcome: Manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species.							
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							
Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of populations managed for subsistence fishery harvest (BUR)	82	82	82	82	82	0	82
# of marine mammal stocks	2	2	2	2	2	0	3

with voluntary harvest guidelines (BUR)							
# of cooperative agreements with Alaska Natives for marine mammal management and monitoring (BUR)	3	3	3	3	3	0	3
# of marine mammal stocks with incidental take regulations that require mitigating measures (BUR)	2	2	2	2	2	0	2
	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Budget Request	FY 2005 Plan	FY 2006 Plan	Change in Performance – FY 2005 to FY 2006	Long-term Target FY 2008
Intermediate Outcome: Improve information base, information management, and technical assistance.							
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							
% of populations managed or influenced by the Fisheries Program for which current condition (e.g., quantity and quality) and trend is known (BUR)							
<i>AFM/FWA</i>	UNK	21% 344/1644	20% 323/1644	21% 344/1644	21% 344/1644	0	21% 344/1644
<i>Marine Mammals</i>	50% 5/10	60% 6/10	60% 6/10	60% 6/10	60% 6/10	0	70% 7/10
% of populations managed or influenced by the Fisheries Program with approved management plans (e.g., Recovery Plans, Restoration Plans, Fishery Management Plans, etc.) (BUR)	UNK	56% 915/1644	39% 640/1644	56% 915/1644	56% 915/1644	0	56% 915/1644
# of current marine mammal stock assessments (BUR)	6	6	6	6	8	2	9
Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of management plans in development, completed, or revised (BUR)	126	342	72	342	342	0	342
# of population assessments completed (BUR)	825	1,744	501	1,744	1,744	0	1,744
# of habitat assessments completed (BUR)	300	937	70	937	959	+22	937
# miles of in-stream and shoreline habitat assessed (BUR)	1,467	38,871	461	38,871	38,871	0	38,871
# of aquatic outreach and education events (BUR)	242	1,760	197	197	197	0	293
	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Actual	FY 2005 Budget Request	FY 2005 Plan	FY 2006 Plan	Change in Performance – FY 2005 to FY 2006	Long-term Target FY 2008
End Outcome Goal: Serving Communities - Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities							
Intermediate Outcome: Improve Indian Fiduciary Trust Beneficiary Services							

Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							
Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of training sessions (BUR)	90	103	30	103	103	0	103
# of new or modified cooperative agreements or Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreements (BUR)	53	72	49	72	72	0	72
# of Tribal consultations (BUR)	271	630	72	630	630	0	630

Notes:

UNK denotes data are unknown because the Program did not collect data in those years.

N/A denotes data are not available because the measure was not included in the FY 2004 budget request.

NA denotes long-term targets for certain output measures are not appropriate; these outputs are not goals in and of themselves.